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## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

### BOOKS OF GENERAL AND ANCIENT HISTORY

*The Encyclopædia Britannica: a Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, Literature and General Information.* Eleventh edition. [In twenty-eight volumes and an index.] (Cambridge, England: University Press. 1910, 1911.)

EVER since the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, at its first reprinting, in 1777, broadened its scope to take in history and biography, the advent of every new edition has been an event of moment to students of history. With each successive edition the historical spirit of the work has become more marked. In 1875 its editor, Professor Baynes, in his preface to the ninth edition, announced its purpose to deal with all subjects from a critical and historical point of view; and the critic and historian who later succeeded to his task, Professor Robertson Smith, was yet more thorough in carrying it out. The "tenth edition", as everybody knows, was only the ninth with a supplement. Its somewhat more statistical and journalistic character may have seemed but incident to the mode of its publication, or perhaps to its management by the *London Times*. But it was from among its compilers that the editor of the eleventh edition, Mr. Hugh Chisholm, was chosen; and the prospectuses which now for months have been flooding us all have prepared us for its much greater expansion of the historical features.

The completed work, now with the exception of the index in all hands, more than bears out these claims. The historical articles are enlarged, multiplied, extended to ages and lands not heretofore counted within the scope of history. Biographical titles are many fold more numerous; and contemporaries are no longer excluded. Nay, all historical narrative, hitherto broken off at a safe distance from the present, is now brought down to the very eve of the year of grace in which we live. Geographical entries rival those of the gazetteers in number and far surpass them in wealth of information. Multitudinous short articles on episodes, institutions, ideas, customs, phrases, justify the subtitle in adding "general information" to the old "arts, sciences and literature". When an article is introduced only to tell us of "Ankle" that it is akin to *angulus* and means the joint which connects the foot with the leg, one wonders what even the dictionary is longer for. In short, the work has become, like the German cyclopaedias, a "conversation lexicon", and the American man of affairs, who was wont to rail at it because it did not answer the questions suggested by his business or his newspaper, will now find it more garrulous than its most versatile

American rivals—aye, devoting more space than they even to American towns and American notables.

But it is not the interests of the man of affairs alone that have been consulted. The student of culture history will rejoice in the larger space given to the story of the arts and sciences. The lover of the court chronicle and of drum and trumpet is so far from despised that dynastic genealogy and the historic peerage receive increased attention, and distinct monographs by military experts cater to the interest in battle and campaign. Indeed, if one have the heart still to be dissatisfied, he will grumble rather at the preference shown the heroes of war and of destruction at the cost of those of peace and good will. Knipperdollinck gets a column, while Castellio has not even a mention. But even the new *Britannica* has limits, and oversights there needs must be. The sciences auxiliary to history come in for generous space—Diplomatic, hitherto dismissed with a paragraph, fills now a half-dozen pages.

Surely all this warrants the claim of the editor's introduction that, "as a work of reference no less than as a work for reading and study, its preparation has been dominated throughout by the historical point of view"; and the student of history will not fail in gratitude. If he be an American, he will surely welcome, as a wise concession to the practical instinct of his people, what has not inaptly been called the "Americanization" of the work. But, if he be a true scholar, he must ask whether all this has been gained without cost to those high qualities which have made the *Encyclopædia Britannica* so long the pride of the whole English-speaking world. Is the new edition as largely the signed work of trained and recognized scholars? Are these so largely as hitherto the most eminent in their respective fields? Have the articles retained from earlier editions deserved to be so, and have they been thoroughly revised by their authors or by specialists as eminent as they? Are the unsigned articles worthy of their place beside the signed; the short, so multiplied in this edition, of their place beside the long?

Thus tested, the new *Britannica* will not be found above all criticism; and, though it would be presumptuous for any one student to venture a verdict upon the whole body of its historical work, it can hardly be rash to assume that defects which reveal themselves to the careful study of even a single student are more or less characteristic of the whole. A glance through the list of contributors might indeed appall the boldest critic. It is a portentous array of the scholarship of Great Britain and her colonies, with a notable sprinkling from the Continent and from America. France contributes Duchesne and Luchaire, Bémont and Esmein, Longnon and Valois, Pfister and Poupardin, Alphandéry and Thomas, Prinet and Wiriath; Germany, Eduard Meyer in ancient history, Hashagen in modern, Hauck and Mirbt, Kraus and Pastor, in that of the Church; Belgium, Father Delehaye; Holland, De Goeje; Bohemia, Count Lützow; Servia, Mijatovich; Russia still fur-

nishes Prince Kropotkin; Italy, Luigi Villari to take his father's place. From America, apart from American themes, which naturally fall in great part to Americans, the number in history is not large; but they are well chosen, and Americans may well be proud of the importance of their assignments and the quality of their output—the magistral article on Feudalism by Professor Adams, Professor Robinson's on the Reformation, masterly in its reach and grasp, Professor Knox's fine survey of Christianity and Professor McGiffert's of the early Church, Professor Jastrow's contributions on Oriental antiquities and Professor Botsford's on classical, and the sound work of that group of younger scholars led by Professor Rockwell, to whom has been so largely entrusted the history of the popes. To Professor Shotwell, for a time an assistant editor, falls the article on History itself, and its learning and eloquence will be appreciated even by those who do not wholly share his breadth of view. Nor will any historian be seriously shocked by his breezy article on the Middle Ages, which he essays to prove a myth—though it is a pity to ascribe the myth to Flavio Biondo, whose is neither the phrase nor the thought, and who, though his history does begin with Alaric instead of the Creation and was interrupted by death before he had brought it quite to his own time, dispatches in his first pages the fall of Rome that all the rest may be devoted (and almost in the spirit of Professor Shotwell) to “the beginnings of new cities and the honor of most surpassing peoples”, for whose rise he counts the fall of Rome a providential thing.

That scholars thus enlisted in other lands are such as have proved their fitness for the tasks to be entrusted to them hardly needs the saying; but the British contributors, too, though some great names are wanting where they might be looked for, have been selected with much care. Most commendable is the acumen which now and again has detected the special training for a special study of some scholar known as yet to but a narrow circle; and not less commendable the wisdom which has retained from earlier editions the work of scholars in whose field no peer was to be found. Not a few, indeed, of the most eminent names belong to those whose contributions are wholly of this sort; and not all were still among the living to revise their work. Revision, however, in all cases there has been; and, when entrusted to a scholar of like training, it seems well done. Yet even then it is not easy to be patient with what confuses authorship and vitiates integrity of style. It has been the peculiar glory of the *Britannica* that its articles were literature as well as learning. Learning can be patched, but literature bleeds when it is cut. Mark Pattison's Erasmus could have been put into no happier hands than those of Mr. P. S. Allen, to whose studies the changes in our knowledge are so largely due. He has left it, as he found it, a charming essay; yet one dares to wonder if the world might not have been the gainer if to Mr. Pattison intact in the ninth edition were added Mr. Allen unhampered in the eleventh.

But, if such doubt attach to emendation even by a master, whose appended initials suggest and justify the double authorship, what shall be said of that revision which without a sign, or with none that reassures, foists its amendments on another's work? And herein lies the very gist of what must qualify the praise due to the new *Britannica*. More even than the penuriousness of publishers, the besetting danger of encyclopaedias has been the omniscience of their editors. The "respect for anything in books" has had no better illustration than in their readiness to correct or to compile an article on the most unfamiliar or recondite theme. How many a scholar has shuddered, when the published work has reached his hands, to find inserted into his articles by editorial zeal the very errors which he had counted it his highest service to discard; or, if spared this, has found them reappearing in the unsigned articles now elbowing his own. It is to meet such dangers, doubtless, that it has become the growing habit of cyclopaedias on both sides of the sea to distribute editorial responsibility among a corps of eminent scholars drawn from different fields of learning. Such a body of "advisers" aided the editor of the new *Britannica*; but History had the fortune to be the field of the editor's own study, and Mr. Walter Alison Phillips, whom he associated with himself as chief assistant editor, was one of the most vigorous of the younger English historians. To aid them they gathered, on either side of the Atlantic, a group of other young scholars, all undoubtedly men of training and promise. But neither Mr. Chisholm nor Mr. Phillips was known to the world of readers by work in any period save the most modern; their colleagues were scarcely known at all. Each in the field of his own preparation was doubtless admirably fitted for such duties as a cyclopaedia may wisely commit to unproved pens; but for the revision of old articles or the writing of new no training and no promise can to the users of a cyclopaedia take the place of that proved special knowledge which alone can give authority. Yet to the pens of these, it must be feared, must be ascribed not only most of the revision, but the great mass of the unsigned articles, historical, biographical, geographical.

Let it at once be admitted that in these there is much good work, and that, as such work goes, the average is high. But there is much, too, which is simple compilation, and compilation from the most accessible sources. In the geographical articles history is so second to description that perhaps the guide-book information which sometimes creeps into them should hardly give offense; but for biography there should be a higher standard. That other cyclopaedias and biographical dictionaries should be frankly used and frankly quoted is of course to be commended; but that, for such a work, research should stop with these is a sad pity. Doubtless it is only a lapse of pen which can describe Ambrogio Traversari as a "French ecclesiastic", for the writer shows clear knowledge of the sources; but of what use to revise the article on Aleandro with neither mention or knowledge of those pub-

lications by which Balan and Brieger, Paquier and Kalkoff, have now first made accessible his papers and revealed the details of his career? Why write of Georg Agricola in ignorance of Hofmann's monograph, or of Schwenkfeld with no mention of the great new *Corpus* of his works? What shall be thought of a revision which in the article on Alva can still leave Egmont and Horn "leaders of the Protestants" or in that on Agrippa change "the abbot Trithemius of Würzburg" to "Trithemius, abbot of Würzburg", or can leave Capito intimate with "divines of the Socinian school" while Socinus was yet unborn? Why, if there must be an article on one and but one of the wretched authors of the *Witch-Hammer*, not turn to those studies of Hansen which have first learned something about them and have taught us that Sprenger was not the chief? More serious is it still when to such editorial assistants are assigned important articles for which a special student might easily be found. Surely, if there was one life for which such help was within reach, it was that of "Joan of Arc", on which in English we have the noble studies of Mr. Lowell and of Mr. Lang. Perhaps it was precisely these which made the task seem easy; for the initials attached to the *Britannica's* sketch are those of editors, including those of Mr. Chisholm himself, whose share, if one may guess from what appears, was perhaps only to verify it by Mr. Lang's just-published work. Closer study shows the article but a revision, sadly needed, of the ninth edition's, long passages of which remain untouched. Some errors are removed—and some are added. Could Mr. Lang himself have been induced to undertake it, he surely would never have begun by putting Domremy "in the Vosges" or wasting time over the futile (and now happily obsolete) dispute over Jeanne's name; or, doing so, could not have so misunderstood the very point at issue as to make it turn on the fifteenth-century use of the apostrophe (then not yet invented) or of a capital (while yet duke of Orleans and king of England regularly appear as Dorleans and Dangleterre), or have supposed the act of ennoblement extant in its original or its spelling beyond question. Nor (to skip all between) could he have ended the article without a mention of the newer sources, now about to be gathered into a volume supplementary to Quicherat's collection.

The severest test of British works dealing with general history has long been to examine the portions relating to Germany. But there have been most encouraging exceptions; and of late such work as Mr. Armstrong's and that of the writers in the *Cambridge Modern History* has been of better omen. Surely in this galaxy of scholars one could have been found for the *Britannica's* article; or, if any period had as yet no special student, help could have been sought on the Continent, as has so fruitfully been done for the articles on France, Italy, the papacy. But Germany falls instead into editorial hands, and chiefly to a young scholar scarcely known as yet to print. As a first attempt in a difficult field his sketch is not disgraceful, and it well may be a pre-

lude to achievements worth the while; but it is far from the ripe work to be expected on such a subject in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and both its text and the somewhat chaotic bibliography at its end abound in misconceptions and inadequacies.

The most daring of the staff is indisputably Mr. Phillips. With a temerity almost appalling he ranges over nearly the whole field of European history, political, social, ecclesiastical, now astonishing us by the keenness of his fresh research, now perpetuating some venerable error. Whether such work be keen or careless is, however, little to the point: the grievance is that it lacks authority. This, too—this reliance on editorial energy instead of on ripe special learning—may, alas, be also counted an “Americanizing”; for certainly nothing has so cheapened the scholarship of our American encyclopaedias. But it is an Americanizing which few Americans will welcome.

For the future there is one great reassurance. Now and henceforward the *Britannica* is under the care of the University of Cambridge. That transfer came too late to be of serious moment to the eleventh edition; but it may well mean everything to those which follow. May it hasten the day when it shall be the editor's function to select its authors and to aid them, but not to do their work. There is, indeed, much short of that for editors to do. The weakest thing about the new *Britannica* is the inadequacy of its bibliographies. The most important source, the latest or the foremost monograph, the best book in English, go often unmentioned. Writing, as scholars must often do, at a distance from great libraries with their bibliographical aids, such oversights are easy. They are no trifle, to writer or to reader; and a vigorous young scholarship at the editorial desk might do much to remedy the evil. Great irregularity, too, prevails in the citation of titles and in the description of books. More vexatious still are the misprints to be found on almost every page, especially in proper names and in passages from foreign tongues. How many of these are to be ascribed to the American impression alone—thanks to the law which requires the type to be reset on this side of the sea—the reviewer can not guess; but surely here was work for an American editor at least.

To compare with the new *Britannica* any other in English speech is clearly idle. Though in occasional articles it may be surpassed by others, its vast bulk would of itself ensure its greater fullness. There is, indeed, in all the world only a single fellow—the French *Grande Encyclopédie* (1886-1903). Compared with this huge product of French scholarship its British rival falls short in size, containing but from two-thirds to three-fourths as many words; and he would be rash who should presume to rate the history in the French work—till his death under the masterly editorship of Arthur Giry—lower than that of the British. But in literary charm and readableness, at least, and yet more in all that goes to make up beauty of dress, the new *Encyclopædia Britannica* is without a peer. Even its maps, which so long lagged be-

hind those of Continental publishers, are now a joy alike to mind and eye. Those printed wholly in black are, it is true, sometimes obscure through wealth of detail or through the blurring of natural features by names; but those printed in colors, and especially those which color the rivers as well as the relief, leave nothing to desire. Whatever its defects, the new edition is a matter for pride. Its advent is a notable step toward the good day when the learning and the art of all the world shall be enlisted for the creation of that international work which alone can be a really faithful mirror of advancing knowledge.

GEORGE L. BURR.

*Hérodote et la Religion de l'Égypte: Comparaison des Données d'Hérodote avec les Données Égyptiennes.* Par CAMILLE SOURDILLE, Ancien Élève de l'École Normale Supérieure et de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études, Professeur Agrégé de l'Université. (Paris: Ernest Leroux. 1910. Pp. xvi, 419.)

*La Durée et l'Étendue du Voyage d'Hérodote en Égypte.* Par CAMILLE SOURDILLE [etc., as above]. (Paris: Ernest Leroux. 1910. Pp. 259.)

THIRTY years ago the prevalent method of studying Egyptian religion was to begin with the data and the ideas regarding it furnished by Greek and Roman authors, and having built up a system from such sources, then to proceed with the older Egyptian documents, employing them merely to fill up gaps, to furnish illustrations, and to brighten with contemporary detail what would otherwise have been a rather meagre outline. Such was the method by which Brugsch produced his *Religion und Mythologie der alten Aegypter*. It was such a method as this, which enabled the older generation of scholars to discover primitive monotheism on the Nile, as well as elsewhere in the East. Its futility was long ago recognized, but we have as yet made but a very small beginning toward the exhaustion of the old native sources properly employed.

The larger of M. Sourdille's two books mentioned above is a sober and careful effort to determine just what value we should attribute to the account of the religion of Egypt in the middle of the fifth century B. C. furnished us by Herodotus, the earliest Greek traveller on the Nile who has left us his impressions. This question, while it may seem to be a purely literary one, is of far-reaching historical importance. The imposing *mêlée* of thought and religion from the most remote and racially divergent sources, with which the historian is confronted as he surveys the Mediterranean world at the beginning of our era, was not a little influenced and modified by the current which constantly flowed into it from the Nile. What was the character of this stream of influence from Egypt? Can we suppose that the religion of Egypt, as revealed to us in old native sources long antedating Greek civiliza-